

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PHY, OSCI, TGEN, IR

SUBJ:VISITS OF IRANIAN EXPERTS TO U.S. UNDER AUSPICES
OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, TECHNGY AND EDUCATION OF
US/IRAN JOINT COMMISSION

REF: A) TEHRAN 6627, TEHRAN 5398; B) AMBASSADOR HELMS'
LETTER TO NSF'S DR. STEVER; C) STATE 146432; STATE 151641;
STATE 158603 AND STATE 162539

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM DR. H. GUYFORD STEVER,
NSF DIRECTOR, TO AMBASSADOR HELMS, DATED 23 JULY 1975, IN
REPLY TO REF B.

DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF JUNE 25, 1975 CONCERNING THE
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PROPOSAL FROM THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION TO THE

GOVERNMENT OF IRAN FOR A VISIT OF AN IRANIAN TEAM TO SURVEY OCEANOGRAPHIC CENTERS IN THE UNITED STATES. THE PROPOSAL WAS PREPARED AT THE REQUEST OF GOI AS THE FIRST PHASE OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES UNDER THE JOINT COMMISSION ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION. IN RESPONSE TO A GOI REQUEST, NSF HAS ALSO SUGGESTED TOURS FOR FOUR OTHER

TEAMS (SEISMIC STUDIES, REMOTE SENSING APPLICATIONS, RADIO ASTRONOMY, AND EDUCATIONAL INNOVATIONS). THE ATTACHED TABLE SHOWS OUR BEST ESTIMATE OF THE COSTS TO USG AGENCIES OF THE VISIT OF THE IRANIAN OCEANOGRAPHIC TEAM. WE BELIEVE THAT THE COSTS ARE REASONABLE AND CONSERVATIVE. THREE-QUARTERS OF THE COST IS ASCRIBED TO THE ACTIVITIES OF USG AGENCIES OTHER THAN NSF; THE ESTIMATE IS BASED UPON NSF EXPERIENCE IN ITS OWN PROGRAMS. IT IS REGRETTABLE THAT THE MAGNITUDE OF THE COST CAME AS A SURPRISE TO DR. PARSA.

I DO NOT WANT NSF TO DELAY IMPLEMENTATION OF JOINT COMMISSION ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, THE PROSPECTIVE COSTS OF THESE VISITS (TOGETHER WITH NECESSARY EVALUATIVE AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES) ARE SIGNIFICANTLY LARGE AND CANNOT BE ACCOMMODATED WITHOUT CUTTING BACK ON OTHER ACTIVITIES TO WHICH WE ARE ALREADY COMMITTED. OUR FY 1976 BUDGET PROVIDES NO FUNDS FOR JOINT COMMISSION ACTIVITIES. WE COULD PROCEED IF ASSURED THAT OUR COSTS WOULD BE RECOVERED. SUCH ASSURANCE COULD BE PROVIDED BY AN INTERIM LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING REIMBURSEMENT, AS PROPOSED TO DR. PARSA BY DR. EDWARDS IN MAY, 1975. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL CONVEY TO DR. PARSA THE KIND OF SERVICE WHICH NSF CAN PROVIDE. WE ARE PREPARED TO GO AHEAD WITH THIS IMPORTANT PLANNING ACTIVITY, EVEN WITHOUT A FORMAL AGREEMENT, IF IT IS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT OUR COSTS CAN BE RECOVERED. SINCERELY YOURS. (ENCLOSURE OF LETTER FOLLOWS).

-- US-IRAN JCC
-- NSF ESTIMATE OF USG AGENCY COSTS
-- FOR TOUR BY IRANIAN EXPERTS IN OCEANOGRAPHY

-- PRESUMED COSTS
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-- COSTS TO OTHER
-- TO NSF AGENCIES TOTALS

1. USGA BRIEFING AND \$1,500 \$6,000 \$ 7,500
DEBRIEFING COSTS
- 5 AGENCIES (NSF AND
- PROBABLY NOAA, COAST
- GUARD, EPA, AND STATE)

- WITH AVERAGE OF THREE
- REPRESENTATIVES EACH,
- (GS 14-15) FOR 4 DAYS;
- TOTAL, 60 MAN DAYS AT
- \$125 PER DAY.

2. COSTS OF ARRANGING 750 0 750

TRAVEL

- 1 PROFESSIONAL TO ARRANGE
- TOUR AND DETAILED
- ITINERARY, 12 1/2 DAYS
- OF EFFORT AT \$60 PER DAY.

3. MONITORING & EVALUATING 1,020 0 1,020

TRAVEL ACTIVITIES

- SITE VISIT OF NSF PRO-
- GRAM MANAGER TO TWO
- CONSECUTIVE TOUR
- LOCATIONS FOR ONE DAY
- EACH, WITH ONE DAY OF
- TRAVEL ROUND TRIP TO
- EACH LOCATION, 4 DAYS
- SALARY AT \$130; ACTUAL
- TRANSPORTATION AND
- PER DIEM.

4. COSTS TO HOSTS OF VISITORS 0 3,125 3,125

- SALARIES OF 2 TO 3
- PROFESSIONALS EACH, FOR
- 10 USG INSTALLATIONS,
- 25 MAN DAYS AT \$125 PER DAY.

- -----
- \$3,270 \$9,125 \$12,395

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- (A) (B)

(A) NSF IS PREPARED TO ADVANCE THIS COST IN ANTICIPATION
OF REIMBURSEMENT.

(B) NSF DOES NOT COMMIT OTHER AGENCIES. THIS FIGURE IS
75 OF TOTAL.

END LETTER AND ENCLOSURE.

2. NSF AWAITS REPLY TO REQUEST IN REFTELS C FOR INFORMA-
TION ON BIODATA AND ETA OF TEAM MEMBERS, DURATION OF TOURS,
AND APPROVAL OF SITES TO BE VISITED. APPROVAL NEEDED

EARLIEST ON HIRING SCIENTIST - ESCORT AND USE OF CONTRACTOR

FOR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS, IN ADDITION TO COSTS ITEMIZED IN
PARAGRAPH 1 ABOVE.

3. TWO TO FOUR WEEKS REQUIRED BETWEEN RECEIPT OF GOI
APPROVAL BY NSF AND ARRIVAL OF FIRST TEAM OF EXPERTS.
THEREFORE TEAM VISITS INVOLVING ACADEMICS POSSIBLE DURING
IRANIAN SUMMER VACATION IF NO FURTHER DELAYS.

4. LETTER FROM NSF TO SCIATT GIVING BACKGROUND ON
ESTIMATED JCC PROJECT COSTS FOLLOWS. INGERSOLL

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